MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Flying Saucers or Unconventional Aircraft

1. A dispatch from Prague, C-103, dated 13 October 1955, reported the sighting of two flying saucers or disc-like unconventional aircraft. An interview with [redacted] one of the four observers of these aircraft failed to confirm in several respects the information given in the dispatch.

2. His observations were limited to sighting two lights which initially rose vertically and then approached the train and passed over head at a high altitude. He failed to observe the body of the object and had no feeling as to whether it was round, disc-like or even square. His only reason for describing an unconventional nature to the object was that it rose vertically and appeared to glide in a manner unlike any aircraft he had previously seen. However, in view of the fact that it was dusk, that he thought the aircraft quite high (5000 feet) and that his observations were undoubtedly conditioned by [redacted] remarks that he had seen a flying saucer, too much confidence cannot be given to his observation. The fact that no noise was heard may also have influenced his opinion on the unconventional characteristic of the object. He also failed to confirm the excitement of the train official following the incident. It is my belief that [redacted] positively could not confirm the existence of any unconventional aircraft. However, he was not in a position to have as good a look as were the other members of the party. A very careful interrogation of the other members is in order.

3. Two years ago, Dr. Robertson headed a group which investigated U.S. sightings of flying saucers. This group was able to explain almost all the sightings and reached the conclusion that these phenomena represented no threat to the security of the U.S. Even if the present sightings

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[redacted] were confirmed, it should not be ignored that these unconventional aircraft have actually been flying around the U.S. and were the source of U.S. public speculation.

4. The USAF is supporting a Project "Y" at Avro Aircraft Ltd. in Canada for the development of unconventional saucer-like aircraft. However, this development is still in the early research and development stages with three or more years being required before the production of a first prototype. If the development proves out successful, the calculations indicate that such an aircraft might have a very high ceiling (up to 100,000 feet) with speeds up to 1500 miles per hour, a range of 700 miles and rate of climb of 100,000 feet a minute. A vertical take-off characteristic would, of course, be extremely valuable. Project Y is being directed by John Frost. Mr. Frost is reported to have gotten his original idea for the flying machine from a group of Germans just after World War II. The Soviets may also have obtained information from this German group. (It is suggested that you ask General Samford to report on the progress of the Air Force project at the IAC meeting.)

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

cc: DD/I

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